Manitoba

Annual Report 1991 - 92

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Includes 10% post-consumer waste

93-02447/

Manitoba

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

763 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3G 3N2

Judge Robert L. Kopstein
Chairperson

(204) 774-3565

The Honourable James McCrae
Attorney General
Room 104 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Dear Mr. McCrae:

On behalf of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, we are pleased to present our Annual Report in accordance with Section 27 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.

This Annual Report covers the twelve month fiscal period from April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Kopstein,
Chairperson

Table of Contents

TITLE	PAGE
Introduction	7
Year in Review	7
Looking Ahead	7
General Information	8
Adjudication and Appeals	9
Financial Information	
Statement of Management Responsibility	11
Report of the Provincial Auditor's Office	13
Balance Sheet as at March 31, 1992	15
Statement of Operations for the year ended March 31, 1992	16
Statistical Information	
Introduction to Statistical Section	19
Figures and Tables	20
Most Frequent Reasons for Non-Acceptance of Claims	26
Schedule I of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act	27
Victim/Witness Services	
Victim Services	28
Older Victim Services	28
Victims Assistance Committee	28
Victim/Witness Assistance Program	28

Introduction

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act was passed July 16, 1970 and provides that injured victims of crime, or their dependents be eligible for benefits in an amount similar to workers under the Workers Compensation Act. The intent of the Act was to ensure that any innocent victim of crime or any person injured as a result of assisting a Peace Officer should not be placed in a position of undue financial hardship.

At that time, the administrative system already in place for Workers Compensation appeared to be the most appropriate system for addressing the needs of processing Criminal Injuries Compensation claims. Therefore in 1971 the Workers Compensation Board was designated to administer the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Funding for Criminal Injuries Compensation comes from the Consolidated Fund of the Province of Manitoba through the offices of the Department of Justice and the Workers Compensation Board is reimbursed an administrative fee to provide services. A portion of funding is also received from the Federal Government Department of Justice.

This annual report reviews general information about Criminal Injuries Compensation as well as relevant statistical tables and graphs and a statement of claims costs.

Year in Review

Bill 59 became effective January 1, 1992. This was a bill that resulted in major changes to the Workers Compensation Act and in particular resulted in extensive changes to the benefits. As Criminal Injuries benefits are based on Workers Compensation benefits a change in our process was also required. A computerized payment calculation system was developed to calculate the 90% of net calculations required to pay incidents occurring after January 1, 1992.

A computerized information system was developed to keep track of Criminal Injuries Compensation claims. This has assisted in the preparation of the year end report and will also be a valuable tool for ongoing claims management.

A change in the appeal policy was made effective March 1, 1992. This change allowed the Workers Compensation Review office to serve as the second level of appeal for Criminal Injuries appeals.

Looking Ahead

This year there was also a significant increase in claims received that involved sexual abuse of children. This has opened a new area to Criminal Injuries. We will be developing policies and guidelines to deal specifically with this issue within the next year.

General Information

Claims for assistance are made directly to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Any person who is an innocent victim of crime and sustains an injury, or anyone who is injured or killed while attempting to arrest any person, preserve the peace or assist a Peace Officer, may file a claim. This is also applicable to any parent, child or dependant of such a victim. The crime must be of the type listed in Schedule I attached to The Act. A copy of the Schedule I is provided on page 27.

Under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, a report must be made by the injured victim to the police as soon as possible and the victim must cooperate with the police in the apprehension of the offender. A person responsible for the crime is not eligible to receive an award.

The Act requires that a claim be filed within two years of the injury or death. It is only in very exceptional circumstances, as determined by the Board, that the time limit may be extended.

Two of the prerequisites in making a claim are that a crime within the schedule of crimes listed in the Act was committed and that such an event directly resulted in injury or death of the victim.

Benefits are available to injured victims of crime, or their dependants in cases of a fatality. Benefits are similar to those paid under the Workers Compensation Act.

Monies are also available to cover expenses related to clothing, prescription drugs, broken eyeglasses, artificial limbs and dental expenses provided a minimum loss of $150.00 is incurred. Assistance towards funeral expenses is also available.

Loss of money or property on the victim's person or kept by the victim in any place at the time of the crime is not covered. Under the Act in Manitoba, payment is not made for pain and suffering.

All monies received by the victim or dependant in respect of the injury/death (including private insurance, restitution, etc.) are deductible from Criminal Injuries benefits.

Rehabilitation services including counselling and referral to appropriate agencies is available to assist victims of crime when it is identified that such assistance would be of benefit.

There is no cost to a victim in filing and processing of claims. Once a claim has been filed, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board gathers all necessary documentation to process the claim, and the decision is forwarded directly to the claimant. An appeal process is available if the claimant is not satisfied with the Board's decision, and the information regarding this is provided to the claimant when they are notified of the Board's decision.

In Manitoba there are no residence exclusions in claiming for Criminal Injuries Compensation. The crime must have occurred within the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba, but the victim does not have to be a resident.

Departmental Information

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board staff consists of a Registrar, an Assistant to the Registrar and an Administrative Assistant.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board of Governance established policies and criteria for the operations of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, and support services are provided by the Finance and Administration and Benefits Division of the Workers Compensation Board.

Processing of criminal injury claims takes place in consultation with various branches of the Workers Compensation Board.

Adjudication and Appeals

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board has established a process whereby claimants have the opportunity to appeal adjudicative decisions made by the Board. Prior to March 1, 1992 the second level of appeal was performed by the Criminal Injuries Claims Committee which was comprised of senior staff of the Workers Compensation Board. In order to establish a process similar to that of the Workers Compensation Board a change in the second level of appeal was made to replace the Crininal Injuries Claims Committee with the Review Office shich also performs the second level appeal of all Workers Compensation Board files.

The following will outline the new policy with respect to appeals.

The current adjudicative process involves the review of applications by Criminal Injuries Compensation Board staff and a decision is made to accept or reject the claim. The applicant is then notified in writing of the decision and benefits are paid if applicable.

Review by Initial Level

Where the claimant wishes to appeal an adjudicative decision, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board staff who initially made the decision will review it to ensure that there is no misunderstanding regarding the issue in dispute.

Review Office

If the issue is understood and the claimant still believes that the decision is in error, the matter is referred to the Workers Compensation Board Review Office.

Final Level of Appeal

If, after receiving the decision of the Review Office, the claimant believes the decision is in error, the claimant can apply to the Appeals Commission established under Section 60.2(1) of the Workers Compensation Act.

Appeal Statistics

These statistics cover the period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992.

Number of files considered by the Criminal Injuries Claims Committee	3
Breakdown of Decisions	
Appeals denied	2
Appeals accepted	1
Total	3

Number of files considered by the Appeal Commission	1

Committee decision rescinded	0
Committee decision amended	1
Committee decision confirmed	0
Referred to Medical Review Panel	0
Total	1

Manitoba

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

763 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3G 3N2

(204) 774-3565

Financial Report 1991-1992

The accompanying financial statements, and other financial information in the annual report, are the responsibility of the management and have been approved by the Board. The accompanying financial statements were prepared by management in accordance with the accounting principles set out in Note 2 to the financial statements and of necessity, include some amounts based upon management's best estimates and judgements. Any financial information contained elsewhere in the annual report conforms to these financial statements.

As management is responsible for the integrity of the financial statements, management has established systems of internal control to provide reasonable assurance that assets are properly accounted for and safeguarded from loss.

The external auditors have performed an independent examination of the financial statements of the Board in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

Lorne A. McMillan, C.A.
Executive Director Finance and Administration

Graham F. J. Lane, C.A.
Chief Executive Officer

Office of
the Provincial Auditor

905 – 386 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 3R6

Auditor's Report

To The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

We have audited the balance sheet of The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board as at March 31, 1992 and the statement of operations for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Board as at March 31, 1992 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies stated in note 2 to the financial statements.

Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 4, 1992

F. H. Jackson, C.A.
Provincial Auditor

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Balance Sheet

as at March 31, 1992
(with 1991 figures for comparison)

	1992	1991
Assets		
Bank	$ —	$ 65,969
Receivable from the Province of Manitoba for current awards	242,902	134,031
Receivable from the Province of Manitoba for unfunded future cost of awards	23,924,058	21,508,187
	$ 24,166,960	$ 21,708,187
Liabilities and Provisions		
Outstanding cheques less bank balance	$ 42,902	$ —
Advance from the Province of Manitoba	200,000	200,000
Provision for future costs		
Pension obligations (Note 3)	21,237,873	19,776,629
Future cost of existing claims	2,686,185	1,731,558
	23,924,058	21,508,187
	$ 24,166,960	$ 21,708,187

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Statement of Operations

for the year Ended March 31, 1992
(with 1991 figures for comparison

	1992	1991
Revenues:		
Province of Manitoba:	$ 4,786,297	$ 3,353,550
Recoveries — restitution, insurance	447	46,961
Bank interest, net of charges	5,636	9,914
Total revenues	4,792,380	3,410,425
Operating Costs:		
Pensions, inclusive of future obligations	2,926,452	2,380,441
Temporary disability	485,637	286,690
Medical aid	359,250	239,670
Rehabilitation	65,967	52,390
Increase in provision for future cost of existing claims	954,627	404,273
Remittance of recoveries to Province of Manitoba	447	46,961
Total operating costs	4,792,380	3,410,425
	$ —	$ —

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Notes to Financial Statements

for the year Ended March 31, 1992

1. Authority and Operations

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act provides that injured victims of crime, or their dependents, be eligible for benefits in an amount similar to compensation paid to workers under The Workers Compensation Act. The intent of the Act is to ensure that any innocent victim of crime or any person injured as a result of assisting a Peace Officer should not be placed in a position of undue financial hardship.

Under an Order of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, The Workers Compensation Board (W.C.B.) was designated to administer The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act. All charges for the administration of the Act are paid from the Consolidated Fund of the Government of the Province of Manitoba through an appropriation of the Department of Justice.

The Board's operations and related financial position were significantly affected by the passage of Bill 59, the Workers Compensation Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act (Bill 59), which was assented to July 26, 1991.

Bill 59, in summary, provides for a dual-award system of compensation for accidents that take place after 1991 through a segregation of wage loss compensation from permanent partial impairment awards. For accidents incurred on or after January 1, 1992, no permanent pension awards are available having been replaced by lump sum awards. This substantially reduces, in future, the costs of fluctuations in actual, compared to reported, program pension obligations. Automatic indexation of certain benefits and wage loss entitlements related to after tax income of beneficiaries have also been provided for in Bill 59.

In summary, though much of Bill 59's effect is prospectively applied to claims, certain of its provisions caused changes in accounting estimates to be necessary in the current annual valuation of the Board's pension liabilities. Specifically, Bill 59 provides that pensions awarded as a result of permanent disabilities are not to be indexed from the date of the beneficiary's 65th birthday. Secondly, Bill 59 set out legislated indexation of benefit rules that superceded the previous practice of biennial ad hoc legislative amendments. This caused a re-evaluation of the liability required to meet future payments related to program pension obligations.

2. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrued basis of accounting in accordance with the following accounting policies.

a) Operating Costs

The policies for the recognition of pension costs and other operating costs consist of:

(i) Pensions

The changes in the provision for future costs of pension obligations are reflected in operating costs in the year that pensions are approved or discontinued. Legislative amendments, changes in actuarial assumptions and changes in accrued benefits are reflected in operating costs in the year of the change. Benefits paid are reflected in the operating costs as incurred.

(ii) Other Operating Costs

The change in the provision for future cost of existing claims is reflected in operating costs in the year of the change.

Temporary disability, rehabilitation and medical aid payments are reflected in operating costs as incurred.

b) Receivables

All costs of administering the Act are paid by the Province of Manitoba under section 24(1) of the Act. Consequently any operational deficiencies are recoverable from the Province of Manitoba.

c) Provision for Future Costs

(i) Pension Obligations

The provision for future cost of pension obligations are calculated using discount rates which provide for the estimated cost of biennial indexation as legislated under Bill 59.

Pension payments to injured victims are indexed until age 65; pension payments to other recipients are indexed until death.

The applicable discount rates are:

— Injured victims – 4% to age 65, 7% thereafter

— Other recipients – 4%

The pension obligations provision was estimated by the Board utilizing independent actuarial methodology employed by The Workers Compensation Board in determining their obligations. During the year The Workers Compensation Board re-evaluated and adjusted it's pension obligation based on an actuarial study completed in 1992.

(ii) Future Cost of Existing Claims

The provision is based on the estimated amount required to meet the future cost of temporary disability, rehabilitation and medical aid claims, incurred prior to March 31, 1992.

An independent actuarial review as at March 31, 1989 provided a methodology to estimate the present value of these liabilities. The provision for the future costs of existing claims as at March 31, 1992 was estimated by the Board using an update of this methodology.

There has been an increase from previous years in the number of approved claims regarding sexual assault and a significant number of them were reported after the two year filing period. The current actuarial methodology does not consider the implications on future liabilities of claims reported after the two year filing period. Accordingly, management has used it's best estimate of this cost and has included it in the amount of $573,196 in the future cost of existing claims. The actuarial methodology is currently being revised in this respect.

d) Administration Expenses

Transactions in respect of benefit payments of the Board are processed by The Workers Compensation Board (W.C.B.). Administration expenses, such as W.C.B. staff salaries and other operating expenses for administering The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, are billed to and paid from the appropriation of the Department of Justice and are reflected in the accounts for W.C.B. For the year ended March 31, 1992, the W.C.B. billed $175,386 (1991 — $186,430) which was reimbursed by the Province of Manitoba.

3. Pension Obligations

The changes in the capitalized values of pension obligations during the year were as follows:

Provision for pension obligations, March 31, 1991	$ 19,776,629
Pensions approved	1,990,348
Pensions discontinued	(85,672)
Attendants Allowance	1,204,650
Change in accrued benefits (aging, new discount tables and legislated amendments)	(1,648,082)
Provision for pension obligations, March 31, 1992	$ 21,237,873

Introduction to Statistical Section

Table I documents the disposition of claims for the period April 1, 1991. There were 91 claims held over from the previous year, pending further police, medical and employment information.

Table II records the type of claim approved. Schedule I of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act outlines the type of crimes for which Criminal Injuries Compensation can be made. The schedule is illustrated on page 27. A claim may also be made for injury or death from an attempt to arrest a person, preserve the peace or assist a Peace Officer.

Table III is an analysis of claims benefits paid for a ten year period from 1983. This documents temporary and permanent disability payments, rehabilitation cash benefits and other benefit costs.

Table IV provides statistical information which outlines a complete breakdown of "other benefit costs" paid for the period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992. This section also provides comparative figures from the last annual report.

Table V presents information regarding the number of claims processed over a ten year period. The reasons for non acceptance of claims are explained in "most frequent reasons for non-acceptance of claims" on page 26.

Figure I illustrates the ages of the victims for which claims have been filed. The 21-30 age group has been identified previously as the greatest number of victims.

Figure II illustrates the employment and income status of the applicants.

Figure III provides comparison of the sex of the victims for claims filed.

Figure IV illustrates the crime occurrence area of the Province for which claims have been filed. There has been an increase in applications from areas outside Winnipeg during this year.

Table I

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Disposition of Claims

for the Period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992

	1992	1991
New Applications	565	480
Applications Carried over from Previous Year	91	58
Total Files	656	538
Files Held Over to Next Year	108	91
Total Applications Processed	548	447
Breakdown of Applications processed		
Approved	414	328
Denied	111	106
Not Pursued	23	13
Total	548	447

Table II
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Approved Claims
for the Period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992

Under Schedule I	1992	1991
Careless use of a firearm	3	3
Sexual intercourse with a female under 14 years	2	2
Causing bodily harm by criminal negligence	0	2
Murder	18	18
Attempted murder	20	9
Overcoming resistance to an offense	0	1
Assault	37	45
Assault with a weapon	196	93
Aggravated assault	21	67
Sexual assault	55	14
Sexual assault with a weapon	0	13
Robbery	58	56
Kidnapping	0	1
Causing fire resulting in loss of life	1	0
	411	324
Assisting a Peace Officer/Good Samaritan Attempt	3	4
	414	328

Table III
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Benefits Paid by Year

Year Ended March 31	Temporary Disability	Permanent Disability	Other Benefit Costs*	Rehabilitation Cash Benefits	Total
1992	$ 485,637	$ 1,465,208	$ 359,250	$ 65,967	$ 2,376,062
1991	286,690	1,223,605	239,670	52,390	1,802,355
1990	308,879	1,210,861	176,299	61,681	1,757,720
1989	391,848	1,027,869	171,957	56,899	1,648,573
1988	333,725	939,251	156,192	59,827	1,488,995
1987	216,145	825,694	160,045	55,624	1,257,508
1986	247,522	613,997	84,444	70,085	1,016,048
1985	298,797	641,589	99,237	84,231	1,123,854
1984	392,365	442,048	100,159	50,799	985,371
1983	343,931	371,579	70,656	14,401	800,567

Table IV
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Other Benefits Paid

for the Period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992
(with Comparative figures for the previous period)

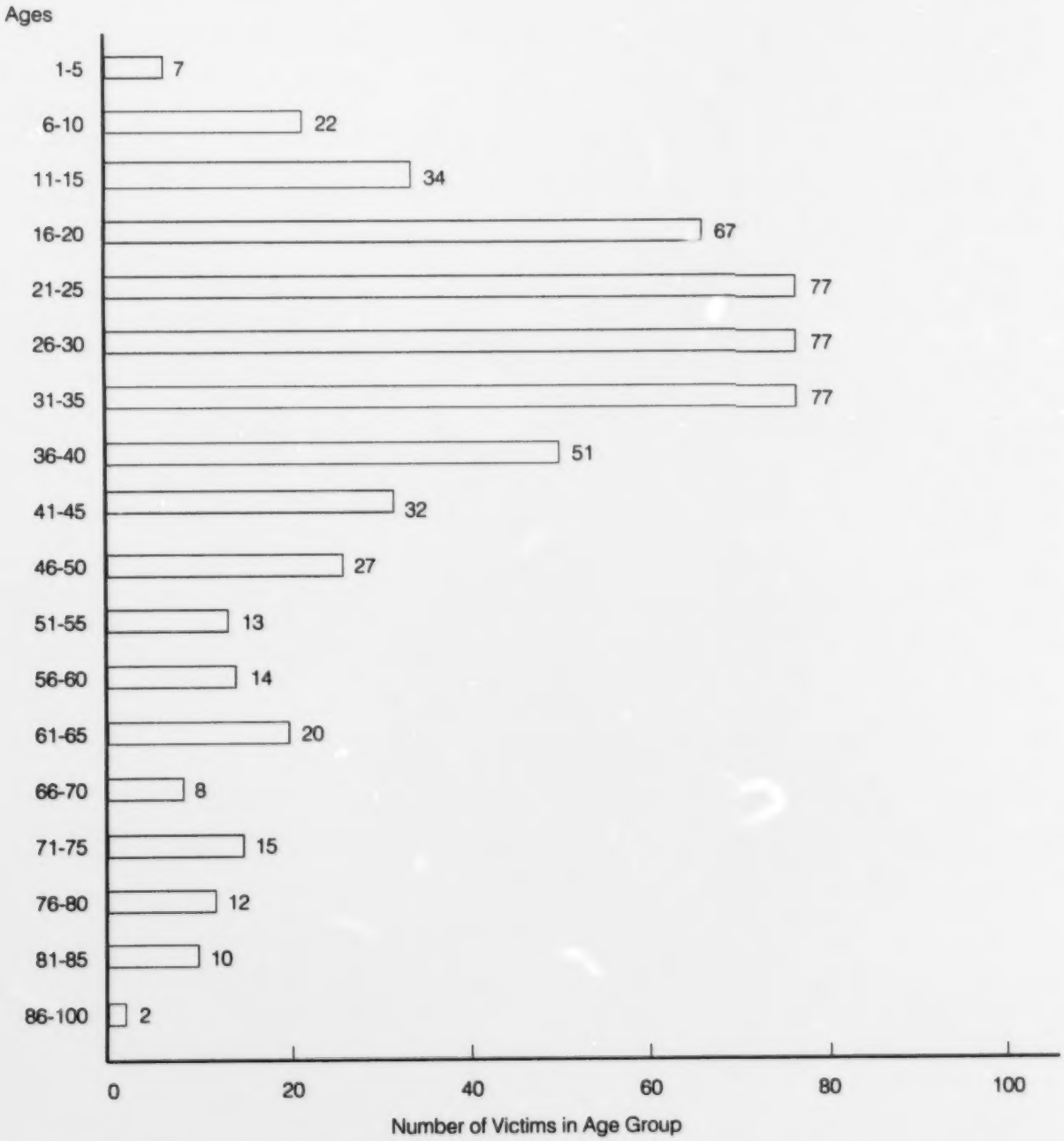
	1992	1991
Psychological Counselling	$ 79,561	$ 24,928
Attendants Allowance	63,793	61,930
Dental Treatment	46,592	35,757
Medical Reporting Fees	26,564	22,927
Clothing Reimbursement	23,664	16,565
Funeral Expenses	20,319	16,764
Travelling Expenses	18,985	10,229
Sundry	15,184	6,076
Ambulance	13,710	9,675
Counselling (Non sexual assault related)	11,935	1,335
Eyeglasses	11,016	6,860
Drug Expenses	9,736	6,816
Chiropractic Treatment	6,771	2,961
Physiotherapy	5,282	3,825
Appliances	3,859	12,922
Outpatient Accounts	1,289	0
Inpatient Accounts	923	0
Nurses	67	100
Total	$ 359,250	$ 239,670

Table V
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Number of Claims Processed by Year

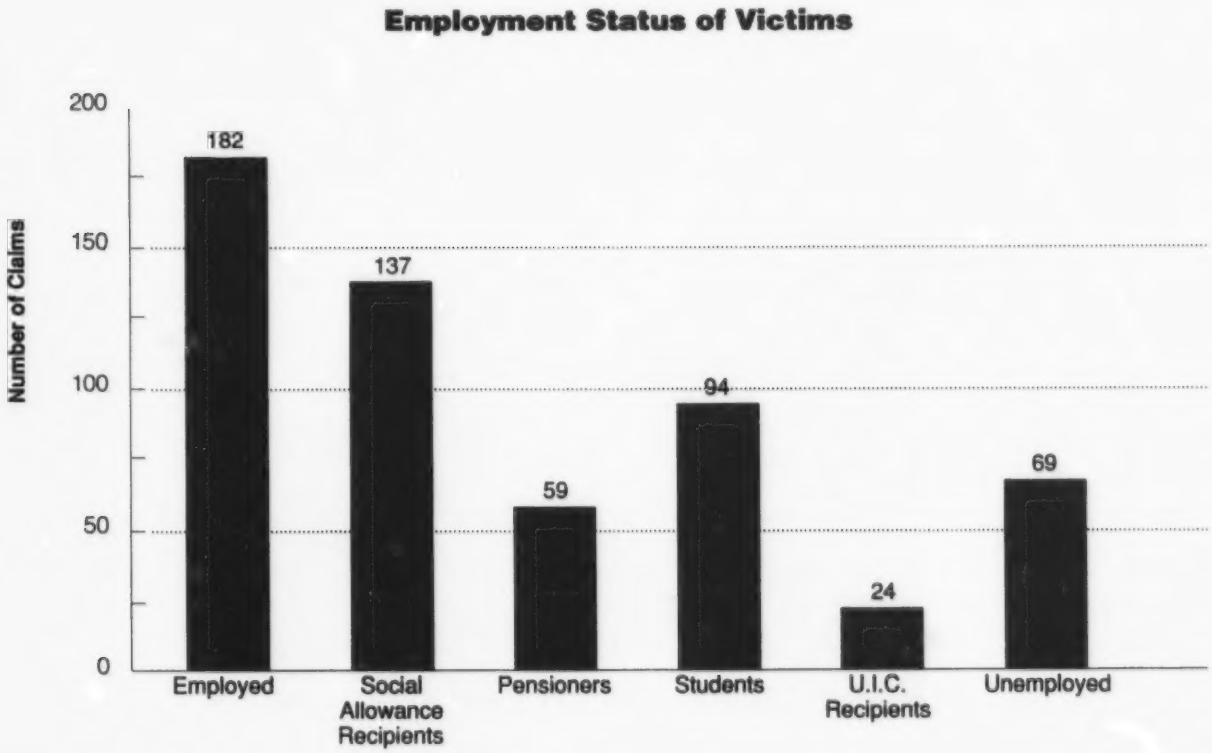
Year Ended March 31	Approved	Denied	Referred to Workers Compensation Board
1992	**414**	**111**	**0**
1991	328	106	0
1990	272	79	0
1989	285	87	0
1988	300	58	0
1987	300	54	0
1986	189	23	0
1985	197	29	0
1984	257	36	2
1983	166	64	2

Figure I
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the Period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992
(based on information filed initially)



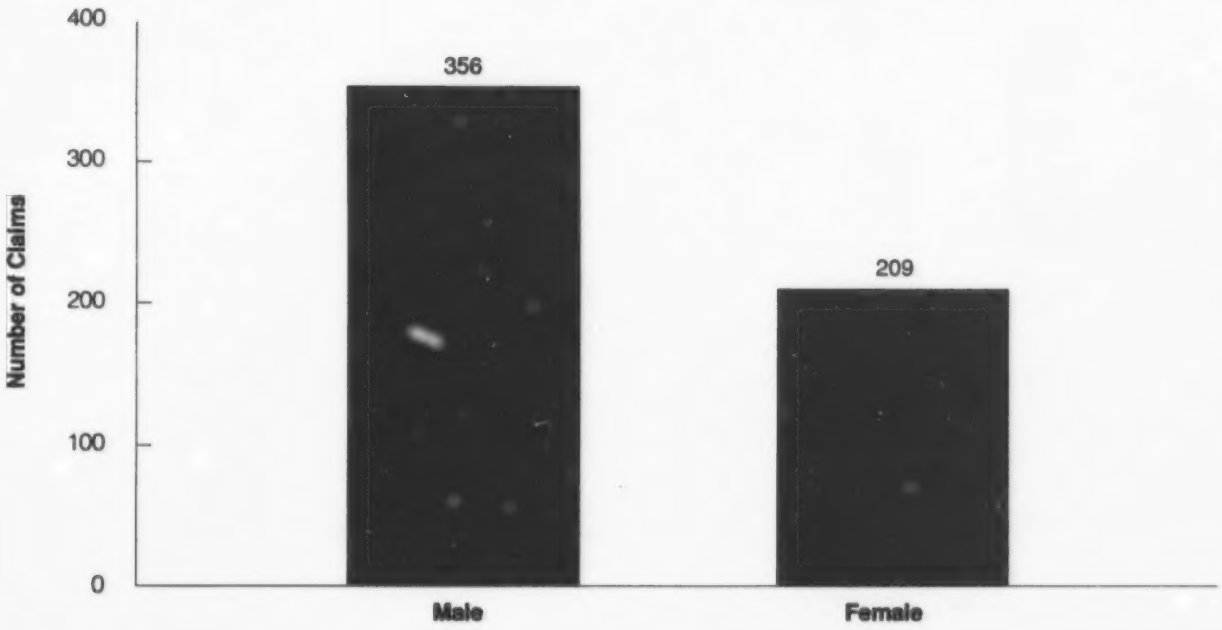
*Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

Figure II
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the Period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992
(based on information filed initially)



*Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

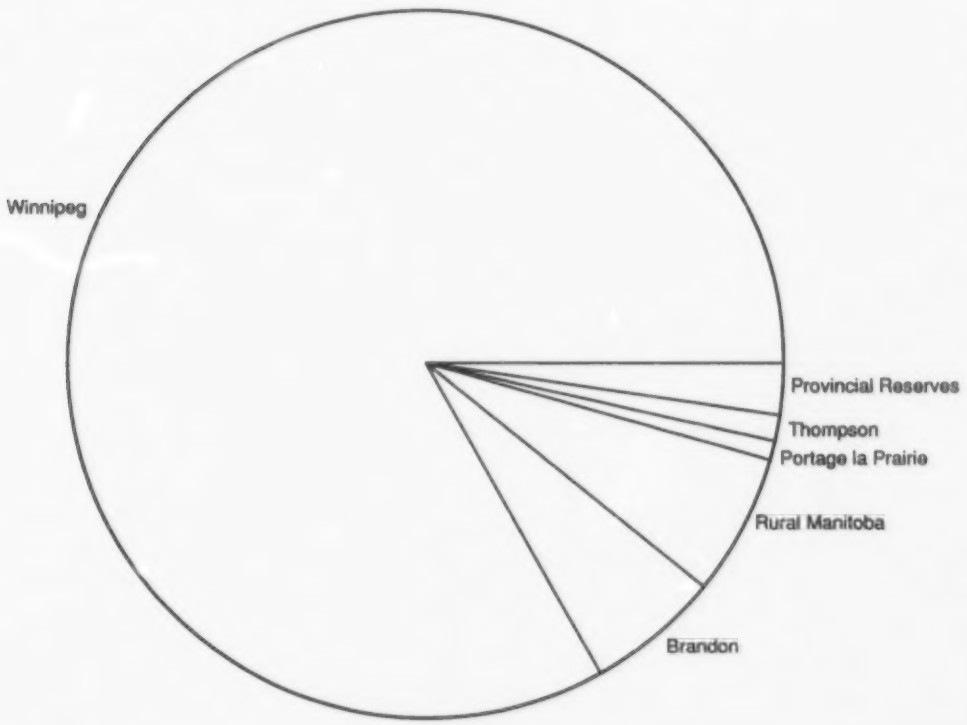
Figure III
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the Period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992
(based on information filed initially)



**Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.*

Figure IV
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the Period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992
(based on information filed initially)

Crime Occurrence Area of Province



Winnipeg = 473
Brandon = 42
Portage la Prairie = 3
Thompson = 6
Provincial Reserves = 10
Rural = 31

**Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.*

Most Frequent Reasons for Non-Acceptance of Claims

	1992	1991
SECTION 6(2)(a)		
"Except as otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where the application for compensation is made after the expiration of 2 years from the date of the injury or death as the case may be."	10	5
SECTION 6(2)(b)		
"Except as may be otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where the crime of violence giving rise to the claim was not reported within a reasonable period of time after the happening thereof to the proper law enforcement officers, or if reported, the claimant did not render the assistance in the apprehension of the offender as he might reasonably be expected."	42	47
SECTION 11(1)		
"The board in making or in declining to make an order for compensation shall consider and take into account all circumstances as it considers relevant to the making of the order and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the board shall consider and take into account the character of the applicant and any behaviour that directly or indirectly contributed to the death of the victim."	17	10
SCHEDULE I		
No evidence of a crime under the Schedule of crimes under the Act.	42	44
	111	106

Schedule I

Section of Criminal Code	Description of Offence
65	taking part in a riot
76	hijacking of aircraft
77	endangering safety of aircraft in flight
78	taking on board a civilian aircraft offensive weapons and explosive substances
80	failure to take reasonable care in relation to explosives where death or bodily harm results
81	causing explosion of explosive substances with intent to do bodily harm or endanger life
86	unlawful pointing of firearm; careless use, carriage, handling etc. of firearm of ammunition
153	sexual intercourse with female under age 14; sexual intercourse with female between 14 and 16
180	common nuisance causing physical injury
215	failure to provide necessaries of life
218	abandoning child and endangering its life
220	causing death by criminal negligence
221	causing bodily harm by criminal negligence
235	murder
236	manslaughter
239	attempted murder
244	causing bodily harm with intent
245	administering poison or other destructive or noxious things
245.4	torture
246	overcoming resistance to commission of offence
247	traps likely to cause bodily harm
258	dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft; dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft causing bodily harm; dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft causing death
260	operation of vessel or aircraft while impaired by alcohol or with more than 80 mgs. of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood
262	impeding attempt to save life
266	assault
267	assault with weapon; assault causing bodily harm
268	aggravated assault
269	unlawfully causing bodily harm
270	assault on public or Peace Officers, persons enforcing, etc.
271	sexual assault
272	sexual assault with weapon, threats to a third party, causing bodily harm
273	aggravated sexual assault
279	kidnapping, illegal confinement
287	procuring miscarriage
343	robbery
423	intimidation by violence (ss(1) para. (a))
433	arson
436	causing fire resulting in loss of life
437	false fire alarm
999	assisting a Peace Officer

Victim/Witness Services

Victim Services

Services for this program are provided by the Winnipeg Police Department, and the type of assistance provided includes:

1. Information regarding the progress of the case, investigation and the recovery and return of any stolen property.
2. Assistance in understanding the procedures and practices of the Criminal Justice System.
3. Referral to the appropriate community agency for counselling services, legal advice, health care, etc., as required.
4. Referral to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for victims injured as the result of a crime.
5. Emotional and moral support will be provided throughout the case. This is especially important to victims of violent crimes.

Older Victim Services

There are services available to retired persons or those over the age of 60 through the Age and Opportunity Centre, Inc. Services are essentially the same as outlined under Victim Services.

Victim Assistance Committee

On January 1, 1987 the Justice For Victim's of Crime Act (Manitoba) was proclaimed. This legislation includes three major features; a Declaration of Principles; the creation of a Victim's Assistance Committee and the creation of a Victim's Assistance Fund.

The Victim's Assistance Fund is a separate fund to be used for the development of services and programs for victims. Financial resources for the fund are generated through the imposition of a surcharge on existing non-bylaw provincial fines. The legislation also provides for the surcharge of $25.00 in a case where a fine is not a part of final disposition of the court.

Any person or organization may apply for funding of research, information or a victim services project.

For further information please contact the Victim's Assistance Committee, 5th Floor, Woodsworth Building, 405 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program is not a part of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, however, this is a support program and public awareness of this service is important. It is for this reason that information has been included in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Annual Report.

The purpose of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program is to provide a support service to people who have become the victim of a crime or those who are innocently involved in the criminal justice system.

Victim/Witness Assistance is provided through a reception centre located on the 4th Floor, Law Courts, 408 York Avenue. The program is staffed by a Co-ordinator, a Witness Worker and a number of volunteers who have been familiarized with the criminal justice system.

It is the responsibility of staff to promptly notify witnesses of cancellations. Witnesses attending at the reception centre will be advised who the crown attorney is and will receive answers to any questions they may have.

Crown witnesses also wait in the reception centre before being called which means they no longer have to sit in the same room with the accused or defence lawyer. After giving evidence, they may remain, if they wish, with other spectators in the court room.

Interpretation services are provided when needed and referrals are made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board when appropriate.

Informational brochures are distributed with all court subpoenas and throughout the province in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Victim/Witness Program is funded through the Attorney-General of Manitoba.